

When the fish give you fits,
try some of these tips.

lower river, lingering low water temperatures can stymie the run once the shad find themselves in the relatively shallow upper river. Look for the first bona fide summer days to bring the water temperature up to the middle 60s and start the stampede. You'll see groups of moving shad, their flashing silver sides glinting beneath the water.

In low, cold water, look for warm rainstorms to perk up the fish. Conversely, once the river has sustained temperatures in the low 70s for several days, you'll likely find that the shad have spawned and passed their prime, both physically and in their inclination to hit flies. But even then, dam releases often increase the water flow and lower the river temperature sufficiently to get the shad moving and receptive again. The bottom line is that you want a water temperature of 66 to 74 degrees and a healthy volume of water to get shad moving and eager for the fly.

Another part of the problem may be that you're simply too early in the run, or too late. For example, on the Delaware it's best to wait until late May to find both large numbers of shad and favorable conditions above the town of Matamoris. The peak of the run—containing the greatest numbers of large fish—typically passes the Narrowsburg Bridge around the last week of May. Before that, while conditions may be right and pods of fish might move through, it's likely the shad may not be there

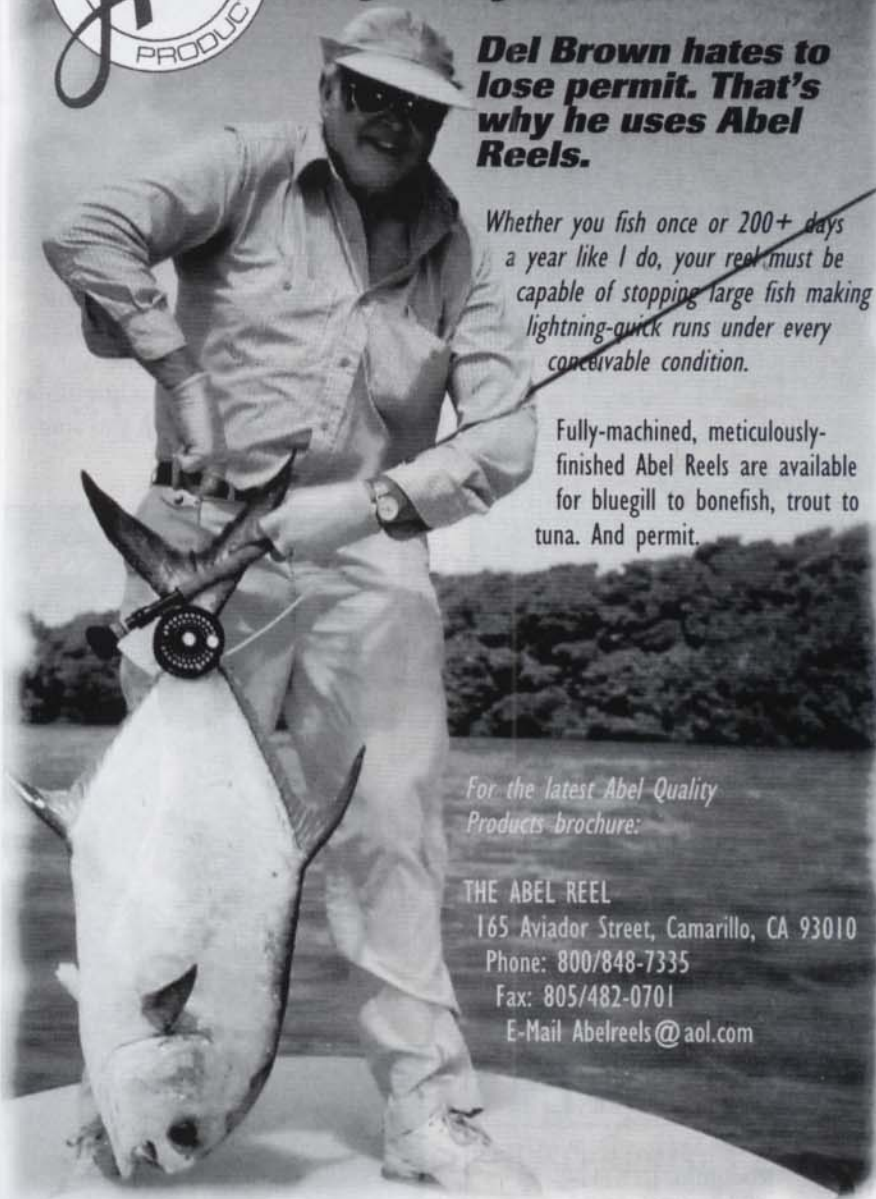


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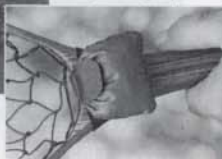
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